

Message Text

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41

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 100710Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 168

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SANA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 8229

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR ET SO FT US

SUBJ: SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA AND TFAI

REF: MOGADISCIO 1064

1. THIS EMBASSY AGREES WITH EMB MOGADISCIO'S THESIS IN REFTEL THAT GSDR SUBVERSION EFFORTS IN TFAI AND/OR UNPLANNED BORDER CLASH BETWEEN ETHIOPIAN AND SOMALI FORCES COMPORT GREATER RISK OF TRIGGERING FULL SCALE HOSTILITIES OVER DJIBOUTI THAN MORE UNLIKELY CONTINGENCY OF OVERT SOMALI MILITARY MOVE -- PARTICULARLY WHILE SUBSTANTIAL FRENCH FORCES STILL IN PLACE IN TFAI.

2. FROM ADDIS PERSPECTIVE, PROBLEM WITH LPAI IS GROWING PREVALENCE OF PAN-SOMALI PARTISANSHIP AT ITS BASE. DJIBOUTI "NATIONALISM" OF HASSAN GOULED IS, WE THINK, INCREASINGLY ACCEPTED BY EPMG BUT, AS DOES EMB MOG, ETHIOPIANS ARE ASKING THEMSELVES WHETHER GOULED CAN MAINTAIN HIS INDEPENDENCE LINE GIVEN THE PRESSURES FROM BELOW AND WHETHER PAN-SOMALIS AND LIKES OF AHMED DINI WILL ALLOW GOULED TO SURVIVE POLITICALLY MUCH BEYOND INDEPENDENCE, IF THAT LONG. STILL, EPMG MAY HAVE BECOME SOMEWHAT MORE
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OPTIMISTIC EVEN ON THAT SCORE OF LATE, TO JUDGE BY

COMMENTS OF MOFA'S AFRICAN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR, BERHANU
DINKA (CF ADDIS 8073).

3. RE PARA 6 REFTTEL, WE THINK IT RATHER UNLIKELY THAT
EPMG WOULD INITIATE HOSTILITIES FOR REASONS OF SELF-
FULFILLMENT. EVERYTHING ELSE BEING EQUAL, THE EPMG HAS
ALL IT CAN HANDLE IN ERITREA. OUR CONCERN HAS RATHER
BEEN THAT EPMG MIGHT CONCEIVABLY STRIKE FIRST TO PRE-EMPT
A PERCEIVED SOMALI THREAT, AND AS DEPT AND MOGADISCIO
AWARE, WE HAVE ALREADY HAD SOMETHING TO SAY TO EPMG
ABOUT POSSIBILITIES IN THE HORN (ADDIS 7759 (NOTAL)).
AS FOR USG COURSES OF ACTION IN EVENT OF HOSTILITIES, WE
BELIEVE IT PREFERABLY THAT OUR OPTIONS BE KEPT OPEN PENDING
A DETERMINATION OF THE MOST APPROPRIATE COURSE IN THE
LIGHT OF CIRCUMSTANCES AT THE TIME, CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH
MIGHT WELL PROVE TO BE AMBIGUOUS AT BEST.
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